

Educational Travel Experience Designed Especially for Your Group














Soccer in Scotland

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

- DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM NORTH AMERICA
- DAY 2 ARRIVE GLASGOW OR EDINBURGH - CENTRAL SCOTLAND AREA
(7 NIGHTS)
- DAY 3 GLASGOW & FIRST INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 4 TRAINING SESSION & EDINBURGH
- DAY 5 STIRLING & SECOND INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 6 GLASGOW & THIRD INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 7 TRAINING SESSION & ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MATCH
- DAY 8 EDINBURGH & FOURTH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY
- DAY 9 DEPARTURE FROM GLASGOW/EDINBURGH

ITINERARY

Home to the famous "Old Firm" rivalry between Celtic F.C. and Rangers F.C., Scottish soccer dates back to 1872. The first ever international soccer match took place at Hamilton Crescent Park in Patrick, Scotland where England and Scotland drew even at 0-0. Since, Scotland has held a proud soccer tradition boasting such legends as Kenny Dalglish and Denis Law.

 Educational Tour/Visit	 Cultural Experience	 Festival/Performance/Workshop	Tour Services
 Recreational Activity	 LEAP Enrichment	 Match/Training Session	    



DAY 1



Relax and enjoy our scheduled flight from North America.

* Please note that the final itinerary may be slightly different from this program. The final itinerary will be determined based on the size of the group, any adjustments that are required (such as adding additional matches), and the final schedule of the matches. (If additional matches are required, then some sightseeing content will be replaced by the additional matches needed.)

DAY 2



Our 24-hour Tour Director will meet us at the airport and remain with us until our final airport departure. Our private coach and driver will transport us to our Central Scotland area hotel. We will have use of our coach for all transfers, touring and soccer content as required throughout.



Central Scotland will be our base for the next seven nights. Breakfast and dinner (or lunch) will be included at the hotel. (Central Scotland may include the Glasgow, Edinburgh or Stirling areas)



We begin with a welcome meeting and orientation. Afterwards, enjoy free time to unpack and explore the area around the hotel.



TRAINING SESSION

We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.



DAY 3



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.



TRAINING SESSION

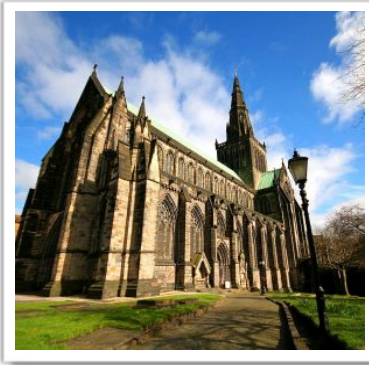
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Today we will explore Glasgow.



Glasgow was named European Capital of Culture in 1990, something that might surprise many who do not know the city outside of its industrial reputation. It is the largest city in Scotland and the second largest in Britain; it is also filled with unique medieval and Victorian architecture, incredible art, traditional music and a well-respected university. It has been revitalized in recent years and is now a modern city ready to be explored.





DAY 3



GLASGOW CITY TOUR

Enjoy a walking tour of Glasgow, which in 1990 was named European Capital of Culture. Walk along the River Clyde and see St. Andrew's Cathedral and the Glasgow Central Mosque. Continue through Glasgow Green, the city's oldest park, to see the former Templeton's Carpet Factory. The owner was first forbidden from building in the city as the factory would lower the character of the neighborhood; to get around this the owner chose to have his factory modeled after the Doge's Palace in Venice.



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Glasgow.



FIRST FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 4



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.



PROFESSIONAL COACHING CLINIC

We will participate in a special Coaching clinic with a guest coach, player or instructor. The clinic will be designed exclusively for the team and to enhance skills in areas identified by the coaching staff. (Excel Sports has contacts at every level and can provide your team with some of the finest instructors in the industry. Specific clinics and coaches will be selected after time of booking.)



Today we will explore Edinburgh.



Edinburgh is widely regarded as one of Europe's most attractive cities, due primarily to its impressive medieval and Georgian districts and surrounding Lothian Hills. It is as famous for the arts as it is for its long and turbulent history. Both the Old and New towns are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



EDINBURGH CASTLE

Visit Edinburgh Castle, a place filled with history, legend and lore. Our visit will include St. Margaret's Chapel, the State Apartments, the Great Hall and the Crown Chamber, which houses the Honours of Scotland (Scottish Crown Jewels).



ROYAL MILE WALK

Enjoy a Walking Tour of Edinburgh's famous Royal Mile. We will start at Edinburgh Castle and walk down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Palace the official residence of the monarch in Scotland. Along the way we will see wonderful shops and architecture, as well as St. Giles' Cathedral.



Free time to spend at your leisure shopping or exploring the city.



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 5



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.



Today we will explore Stirling.



The medieval town of Stirling grew up around one of Scotland's most important fortresses and the Old Town is still surrounded by its original 16th century walls. The town served as the backdrop for one of William Wallace's 13th century battles and continued to be of strategic importance in the Jacobite uprisings.



STIRLING CASTLE

Tour Stirling Castle, which dates from the Middle Ages and was an important seat of two kings; James IV and James V. View the Museum of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, presenting an excellent exhibit of colors, pipe banners, and regimental silver. From the castle there is a wonderful view of the Wallace Monument.



DAY 5



This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore the city of Stirling.

SECOND FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.

DAY 6



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

CELTIC FOOTBALL CLUB STADIUM TOUR

Celtic Park is one of the biggest football stadiums in Europe, making it the perfect place to learn all about the colorful history and heritage of Celtic Football Club from its inception in 1888. Experience first hand, Celtic's heritage and culture that has made the club famous and renowned the world over. Take a guided tour of the stadium as well as taking a trip through the history of the club through our various informative and impressive exhibitions. (Please note dressing room access on the day before a match may be restricted depending on first team activity at the stadium.)



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration.

THIRD FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.



DAY 7



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

TRAINING SESSION

We will participate in a Training Session at a local field. The training session will be led by your own coaching staff and is designed to prepare the team for upcoming friendly matches. (Training sessions may be in the morning, afternoon or evening and will be determined by the final hotel location, field availability, and the schedule of activities for the day.)



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration.

ATTEND A PROFESSIONAL MATCH

We will attend a professional soccer match featuring teams from the top leagues. Seeing the top talent in the world in person would itself be an unforgettable experience, but add the passionate crowds signing, cheering and chanting and you will enter an atmosphere that can only be understood through personal experience. (Excel Programs will secure tickets for the group after time of booking and upon release of the official schedule. Due to scheduling your final itinerary may need to be adjusted to accommodate attending a match.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.

This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.





DAY 8



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.



We will have some free time for shopping and exploration in Edinburgh.



FOURTH FRIENDLY MATCH

We will play a Friendly Match against a local club or academy team. The team will meet and compete against athletes of similar ages and skill levels, and have the opportunity to make friends for life. (The teams you will play will be selected after time of booking and will be based on the specific skill level and requirements of your team. We have contacts at every level and take great pride in finding the perfect fit for each friendly match.)



Tonight we will have dinner in the hotel restaurant.



This evening will be free to enjoy social activities around the hotel area.



DAY 9



This morning we will enjoy breakfast at the hotel.



Our rewarding and enjoyable tour comes to an end as our Tour Director accompanies us to the airport on our final day.





What is Included:

- Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges (which will not change after time of enrollment for any participant)
- Accommodation in a three star hotel in twin or triple rooms with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- Full breakfast daily at the hotel
- Lunch or dinner daily (determined by the final sporting arrangements)
- A full-time WorldStrides Excel Sports Tour Director to accompany your group 24 hours a day from arrival to departure
- Transportation by private coach for airport transfers, friendly games and sightseeing (where and when required)
- All excursions, cultural activities and (several pre-booked) admissions as per your itinerary
- All sporting arrangements including matches, training sessions or clinics (as per the itinerary)
- One pro soccer ticket (subject to travel dates and schedule)
- Three free college credits for all high school students (option for each participant & post trip work is required)
- Basic health insurance while on tour (including medical treatment on tour up to \$7,500) and \$50,000 of coverage for emergency evacuation and repatriation
- USTOA Extensive Consumer Protection up to \$1,000,000 in coverage for advance deposits through our USTOA membership
- Manchester United Raffle fundraiser
- Industry leading Professional Liability Insurance of \$50,000,000 in coverage, which extends to certain individuals acting on behalf of Excel Sports as Coaches and Chaperones
- One free place in a single room throughout

This Does Not Include:

- Any items not mentioned above or in the detailed itinerary
- Single rooms for adults (will be available at a supplement of \$50 per night)
- Third daily meal or personal beverages with meals
- Laundry services on tour
- Public transport pass in capital or major cities
- Visas (if required)
- Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver
- Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage
- Any costs for the hire of, or transport of, equipment or gear
- Travel insurance - We offer and always recommend our Trip Mate travel insurance policy to all participants. This comprehensive policy includes health, property and cancellation coverage at a cost of \$149

Don't Just Take Our Word for it. Here is What Our Participants Had to Say:



"The caliber of football and teams we played was amazing and the friends our players made are invaluable. WorldStrides Excel had everything so well organized and everything went off without a hitch. The sightseeing tours were wonderful and we always had someone from WorldStrides Excel with us if we had questions. We are already planning our next trip. Thanks WorldStrides Excel!"

Jill Hartke, Cedar River Soccer Association, Scotland



"Do not miss the opportunity to go with your team to Stirling, Scotland. It is definitely a bucket list item that you can check off. The game experience and sightseeing opportunities were wonderful. We are so glad that we took full advantage of this opportunity."

Dan Lodermeier, WDM Force, Scotland



"Our trip to Scotland was one of the best sporting trips I've ever taken. The schedule was well thought out which allowed us to have quality practices and friendlies while still enjoying what the country had to offer. The staff were all professional and made us feel safe at all times. The kids had a ball! My work as a coach was not complicated thanks to the WorldStrides Excel Sports staff!"

Ben Ossei, Head Coach, Scotland



"The experience was amazing from start to finish. More laughter in a week than I have had in years. The soccer was great and the facilities, opponents and referees were all very good. The accommodations were excellent. All the bus trips were easy and convenient and the sightseeing was memorable."

Chris DePeppe, Head Coach, Scotland

Manchester United GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE DRAWING

Win a four-day trip for two and attend the final Manchester United home game at Old Trafford Stadium



The Winner Will Receive:

- Two round trip flights to Manchester
- Two nights at the 3-Star Willowbank Hotel in Manchester
- Two tickets to see Manchester United's final season home game at Old Trafford



"The Manchester trip was an awesome experience that I will never forget. It's been a dream of mine to see a Premier League game so this trip helped that wish come true for me. The atmosphere at the game was awesome and I got to see some great goals from Manchester United. I was also impressed with how accommodating Excel International Sports was while arranging extra days and flights for the trip. Overall, I am so grateful that I got this opportunity to go to Manchester and fulfill one of my dreams!"
Mike Smith, Grand Prize Raffle Winner

THE ULTIMATE FUNDRAISER

WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs is pleased to offer your individual participants or your team with the ultimate fundraiser. Your participants will be able to sell raffle tickets to people in their community or to other friends and family members. The money they raise will be theirs to apply towards the cost of their sports tour.

We will provide a PDF of the raffle tickets. The participants will print the tickets at home, and then they will proceed to sell the tickets for \$10 each. WorldStrides Excel Sports Programs will provide the grand prize and hold a drawing on the 1st of March each year in order to choose a winner.

"This raffle fundraiser is sending me to Spain to play soccer. When my parents told me I had to pay for the trip myself I was determined I could do it and with the help of this raffle I was able to pay for the entire trip. Thank you so much!"
Sydney Larkin, St. Mary's College Women's Soccer (MD)

